

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees meeting held Monday September 16, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at Lake Morey Resort and Conference Center – APPROVED

The VSCS Board of Trustees met on Monday, September 16, 2024 at Lake Morey Resort and Conference Center.

Committee Members present: Lynn Dickinson (Chair), Megan Cluver, David Durfee, Bob Flint (arrived 10:15 a.m.), Shirley Jefferson, Karen Luneau (Secretary,) Jim Masland, Marc Mihaly, Jason Musal, Shawn Tester, Sue Zeller

Absent: Betsy Ide Bloomer, Janette Bombardier, and David Silverman

Chancellor: Elizabeth Mauch

Presidents: David Bergh, VTSU President
Joyce Judy, CCV President

Other Attendees: Nolan Atkins
Kelly Beckwith
Amy Daviarz
Kayla Dewey
Wilson Garland
Maurice Ouimet
James Page
Toby Stewart
Sarah Truckle
Patty Turley
Drake Turner
Sen. Terry Williams
Angie Albeck (arrived at 11:16 a.m.)
Gary Moore (arrived at 11:17 a.m.)

1. Call to Order

Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Board provided a warm welcome to the newly appointed committee liaisons. The liaisons are non-voting members of committees and will be provided a seat at the table and the same access to meeting materials that is offered to trustees.

Trustee Jefferson noted the need for a Vice Chair for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, and Chair Dickinson agreed make an appointment.

2. Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

3. Approval of August 12, 2024 minutes

Trustee Luneau moved and Trustee Jefferson seconded the motion to approve the August 12, 2024 minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Report from Finance & Facilities Committee

The Committee meeting occurred immediately prior to the current meeting with the same trustees present, and there was no formal report.

5. Board Vote on Endowment Proposal

Trustee Tester moved and Trustee Mihaly seconded the motion to approve the Helping Professions Endowment proposal. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Presentation: VSC Strategic Vision preview

Chancellor Mauch provided a preview of the VSC Strategic Vision. A more in-depth presentation was planned for the following day. The strategic plans for CCV, VTSU, and VSC may appear to vary and use slightly different language, but the underlying goals are all to ensure an accessible, affordable, high-quality, relevant experience for students while remaining financially sustainable.

7. Presentation: Community College of Vermont Strategic Plan

President Judy presented CCV's Strategic Plan followed by a discussion. In the discussion, President Judy explained how each certificate is designed to fulfill credits for an associate degree. Certificates help students gain Vermont industry-needed skills and qualify for promotions. Once students earn certificates, they may gain confidence to continue and earn full degrees once they realize what they are capable of and what opportunities are available. The goal is to train Vermonters to fulfill industry needs in Vermont.

Tuition at CCV is high relative to competitors. This is due to relatively low State support. The legislature might reconsider how the pool of higher-ed funds are allocated. Financial support for CCV benefits Vermont students who are likely to stay in Vermont.

8. Board Vote on Community College of Vermont Strategic Plan

The vote was deferred to Agenda Item 10.

9. Presentation: Vermont State University Strategic Plan

President Bergh presented VTSU's Strategic Plan, with focused priorities on (1) increasing access for learners in Vermont, (2) career-readiness, and (3) employee centric. The discussion that followed provided updates on the dental hygiene and therapy programs and a new restorative justice program.

10. Board Vote on Vermont State University Strategic Plan

Trustee Masland moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the motion to approve the Community College of Vermont and Vermont State University Strategic Plans. The motion was approved unanimously.

11. Report from the presidents

President Judy's remarks were included in the presentation on the CCV strategic plan. President Bergh reported high enrollment numbers. VTSU is working on an accelerated growth strategy plan, which is in progress and will establish targets for student population groups (e.g., online, graduate, etc.). The Chancellor and President are building relationships with campus communities and are currently focusing their attention on communities affected by recent flooding.

12. Other business

There was no other business.

The Board recessed at 11:48 p.m. for lunch and training. The meeting resumed at 1:10 p.m.

13. Executive session (contracts, real estate, legal advice)

At 1:10 p.m. Vice-Chair Cluver moved and Trustee Jefferson seconded a motion that the VSC Board of Trustees enter executive session, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A) to discuss contracts, and § 313(a)(1)(F) to receive confidential attorney client communications, and § 313(a)(2) to discuss real estate, because premature general public knowledge of these discussions would place VSC at a substantial disadvantage. Along with the members of the Board present, in its discretion, the Board invited the following to attend different sections of the executive session: the VSC Chancellor, the CCV and VTSU Presidents, the VSC Chief Information Officer, the VSC Director of Transformation, the VSC Director of Project and Change Management, the CCV Dean of Administration, the VTSU VP of Business Operations, Art Klugo, Dr. James Page, VSC Director of External and Governmental Affairs, and the VSC General Counsel.

At 4:32 p.m., the Board exited executive session. The Board went into recess, to resume the meeting the next day.

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

The meeting resumed at 9:05 a.m.

Committee Members present: Lynn Dickinson (Chair), Megan Cluver, David Durfee, Bob Flint, Shirley Jefferson, Jim Masland, Marc Mihaly, Jason Musal, Shawn Tester, Sue Zeller

Absent: Betsy Ide Bloomer, Janette Bombardier, Karen Luneau, and David Silverman

Chancellor: Elizabeth Mauch

Presidents: David Bergh, VTSU President
Joyce Judy, CCV President

Other Attendees: Nolan Atkins
Mary Brodsky
Kayla Dewey
Wilson Garland
Nicole Mace
Katie Mobley
Maurice Ouimet
James Page
Hannah Reid
Sharron Scott
Deborah Stewart
Toby Stewart

Sarah Truckle
Patty Turley
Drake Turner
Heather Weinstein
Yasmine Ziesler

14. Call to order

Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

15. Presentation by Nancy Zimpher, Special Assistant to the President National Association of Higher Education Systems (NASH)

Dr. Zimpher presented on “Systemness” and led a discussion regarding her theories for successful systems. The discussion included her suggestions to: (1) allow as much ease as possible for transferring credits between schools, (2) create a financial aid consortium to offer the same aid to the student regardless of which institution is attended, (3) create a unified tuition policy, (4) implement a common technology platform across the system, (5) create a coordinated internal search process and team to recruit those who want to work in a system, (6) create a centralized application system which will offer placement for 100% of applications within the system, (7) share courses between schools across the system, (8) degree sharing, (9) reorganize the c-suite for efficiency.

Dr. Zimpher also suggested inviting internal nay-sayers to decision-making tables, which can lead to problem-solving. Dr. Zimpher concluded with the data is unequivocal – higher education is worth it. On the job training might get someone their first job, but a degree will get them promoted.

16. Presentation: Vermont State Colleges Strategic Vision

Chancellor Mauch presented the System’s Strategic Vision. The Chancellor discussed four focuses: (1) affordability and revenue, (2) access and enrollment, (3) holistic student support including financial support, and (4) creating a cohesive and collaborative culture. VSC is working on a number of projects including the ERP project, creating a seamless pathway for students to progress through programs and between institutions, efficiently using and transforming VSC’s facilities, and the Chancellor’s Innovation fund. By 2030, the goal is to

guarantee affordability and accessibility, as well as build a financial resilient and sustainable system.

17. Other business

There was no other business.

18. Executive Session (performance/appointment of a public official)

At 12:01 p.m. Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Jefferson seconded the motion that the VSC Board of Trustees enter executive session, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to consider the employment or evaluation of a public officer. Along with the members of the Board present, in its discretion, the Board invited Dr. James Page to attend.

The Board exited Executive Session at 1:10 p.m.

19. Adjourn

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.